

Tempe Sister City Corporation  
 City of Tempe  
 P.O. Box 5002  
 Tempe, AZ 85280

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### Greetings from TSC President Dick Neuheisel

This is the launch of the Tempe Sister City Quarterly. It will be produced four times a year and sent to our membership and international friends around the world. You will still receive the monthly Tempe Sister City Newsletter, written by Elaine Hlawek.

The Quarterly, edited by Gail Fisher, will provide in-depth stories, like the feature on Timbuktu and *Where are They Now?*, a focus on our former exchange delegates.

*Dick Neuheisel, Tempe Sister City President*

# TIMBUKTU

Bringing the World Together... One Friendship at a Time

# Tempe Sister City

Quarterly  
 vol. 1  
 Spring 2001

## Student Exchange Delegates

Amid tears, cheers, whoops, hollers and lots of hugging, 26 students recently learned of their selection as Tempe Sister City student exchange delegates.

After being 'kidnapped' and dressed in 'decorative' T-shirts by last year's delegates, the students were taken to Hackett House. Bill Pederson, Student Selection Coordinator, introduced them to TSC members and city coordinators.

### Skopje

Cherise Burk  
 Sarah Hill  
 Jessica Hedinger  
 Aaron Spielberg

It was wild and crazy when these students learned they were going to Beaulieu-sur-Mer & Hutt City



### Regensburg

Rachel Araneta  
 Bryan Burgan  
 Kristen Fant  
 Jennifer Gordon  
 Amber Hasulak  
 Jara Daniela  
 John Krause  
 Brianne Sheets

Students selected for Skopje gather round Coordinator Jerry Pie



### Hutt City

Brittney Hilton  
 Amy Peterson  
 Adam Rini  
 Liann Seiter

Regensburg Coordinator Chris Naderer shares her excitement with students bound for Germany.



### Zhenjiang

Miesha Bycura  
 Megan Hanley  
 Jamie Israel  
 Erin Olsen

Students selected for Zhenjiang with Coordinator Lisa Morley



### Beaulieu-sur-Mer

Lara Doolan  
 Cristina Escobar

Elated students chosen for Carlow surround their Coordinator, Tom Burns



### Carlow

Alethea Delgadillo  
 Davor Kolacevski  
 Jessica Turpin  
 Mary Warren

Tempe Sister City Quarterly Spring 2001





# Tempe News

Tempe Sister Cities - 30 Years Strong



Winners of the Tempe Sister Cities Geography Bee are, from left, Rachel Bethancourt 3rd place, Marshall Hill 2nd place and Daniel Rasmussen 1st place.



Tempe artist Laurie Nessel created the architectural glass panel presented to Hutt City officials in recognition of our twenty-year Sister City relationship.

## Daniel Rasmussen Wins Tempe Sister Cities Geography Bee

Fourth grader Daniel Rasmussen from Rover School won First Place in the Tempe Sister Cities Geography Bee held recently in the Tempe City Hall Chambers.

Second Place winner was Marshall Hill, a seventh grader at Connolly Middle School, and Third Place went to Rachel Bethancourt a fifth grader at Laird School.

For several hours students answer geography questions about the United States, countries around the world, rivers, oceans, capitals and more.

Hackett House annually sponsors the Geography Bee and provides trophies, medallions and refreshments for the participants and gift certificates for participating teachers. Judy Andrews coordinates the event with assistance from Hackett House volunteers Jane Neuheisel, Janet Lamb, Teresa Borota and Mary Evans.

## Delegation to Hutt City Presents Artistic Gift

Hutt City Coordinator Mary Larson recently traveled to this New Zealand Sister City with a delegation from Tempe to celebrate our twenty-year relationship. Larson, along with Sister City member and Tempe Vice-Mayor Leonard Copple, presented a stained-glass image of historic Tempe by artist Laurie Nessel to the Hutt City officials.

The leaded glass window contains images of Tempe from around the turn-of-the-century. A similar glass piece was presented in 1997 to Beaulieu sur Mer to commemorate the official signing of this French city as Tempe's sixth Sister City.

The Tempe Municipal Arts Commission sponsored the 1994 glass competition that produced Nessel's "Window to the Past." The piece is on display in the Tempe Historical Museum lobby.

## Thank You to the Motorola Foundation

Tempe Sister Cities recently received a check for \$600 from the Motorola Foundation. Due to the efforts of Mark and Teresa Borota and Stephen and Sue Sheard, the donation comes from the Volunteer Grants Program. The Borotas and Sheards have sons who were student delegates to Carlow last summer.

### Directors

Sherry Borgren  
Becky Bowman  
Scott Burge  
Mary Burns  
Frank Casa  
Mike Corrigan  
Gordon Cresswell  
Sharon Doyle  
Judy Dutson  
Mary Gavigan  
Ralph Goitia  
Roger Hatton  
Kathy Lilley  
Sue Lofgren  
Joe W. Milner  
Lisa Morley  
Chris Naderer  
Jane Neuheisel  
Marc Newton  
Linda Parrish  
Bill Pederson  
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Ambassador Group . . . . .Marc Newton

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Beaulieu-sur-Mer . . . . .Sherry Borgren  
Carlow . . . . .Tom Burns  
Hutt City . . . . .Mary Larsen  
Regensburg . . . . .Harry Mitchell  
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Skopje . . . . .Jerry Pies  
Timbuktu . . . . .Sue Lofgren  
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Bringing the World Together...  
One Friendship at a Time

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## Tempe Sister City Quarterly

95 West Fourth Street, Tempe, Arizona 85281

editor: Gail Fisher P.O. Box 23806, Tempe, AZ 85285-3806  
publisher: Matt McNeil / M Design

### Tempe Sister City Membership Form

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Make checks payable to Tempe Sister City Corporation and send to:  
Bob Hlawek, 1263 E. Manhattan Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282.  
For questions concerning membership, please call Bob at 480-831-7337 or e-mail, bhlawek@aol.com



# Where Are They Now?

Keeping Track of Past Student Delegates



This regular feature is devoted to past student delegates. Some 400 Tempe high school juniors have participated in the Sister City student exchanges. They are an accomplished group and we want to highlight their stories. So often the exchange experience changes lives forever.

Kathy Matz and Josh Lader, both former McClintock High School graduates and Sister City student delegates, are now working for the City of Tempe. Matz was appointed Tempe City Clerk by the Mayor and Council last July, and Lader is currently an Assistant to the Mayor. Both feel their lives were positively influenced by the exchange program.

Send us your news so we can include *your* stories.

## Kathy Matz

"I have been very fortunate," says Matz, "to have had many interesting and varied career opportunities which have taken me, literally, around the world. As I look back, my selection as a Sister City delegate was really the beginning of it all."

Matz was a Regensburg delegate. She earned a B.S. in Broadcast Journalism from ASU, graduating Summa Cum Laude. From 1983 to 1990, she held various positions as news producer for Channel 3 KTVK-TV in Phoenix; news producer and managing editor for stations in Chicago; managing news producer in New York City; and a return to Phoenix Channel 3 in 1991 as a documentary/investigative producer. While working at Channel 3, she attended ASU College of Law and received her J.D. in 1996.

Matz was also a legal aide for U.S. Senator John McCain and a prosecutor for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office before becoming Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office, City of Tempe in 1998. Matz enjoys being Tempe City Clerk.

"I am thrilled to be giving back to the wonderful community of Tempe which has given so much to me and my family over the years," says Matz. "My current position as the City Clerk brings all of my experience, education and training together, and I am honored to serve our citizens."

## Josh Lader

When Lader was eight years old, his step-father, Robert Briscoe, said to him at dinner one night, "When you are a junior in high school, you will apply for the Sister City Program." And that's exactly what he did. Lader was chosen as a delegate to Zhenjiang in 1995 and that experience changed his life. "It opened my mind to a whole new society, yet many of the things I saw and experienced were familiar," he says. "The trip also made me realize just how small the world really is."

Lader's involvement with Sister Cities is extensive. While in college, he was elected National Youth Program Chairman for Sister Cities International, a position he held for three years; in 1997 he interned at SCI in Washington, D.C.; in 1999, at age 21, he was elected to the Board of Directors of SCI, the youngest ever elected to the Board in the 45 year history of the organization; and in October 2000 he was the featured speaker at the 2000 Friendship Cities Conference in Beijing, China.

This ASU political science graduate also enjoys sports and in 1997 was chosen to represent the United States at the World Scholar-Athlete Games playing basketball.

Lader has a twin brother Jason. His stepfather and mother, Meryl Briscoe, are Tempe Sister City members. Lader is now working to create a non-profit foundation called the Lader-Smith Foundation. "The focus is to help children cope with the loss of a parent and to educate the community about poly-cystic kidney disease," Lader explains.

## Zhenjiang, China

Last October Zhenjiang Coordinator Lisa Morley, Mayor Neil Giuliano, Councilman Dennis Cahill, Josh Lader, Gordon Creswell, and Bill and Sandra McClelland, Rover School Principal, made a whirlwind trip to China for the 2000 Friendship Cities Conference in Beijing followed by a few days in Zhenjiang.

The conference brought together over 2000 representatives from all of China's participating friendship cities in and out of the country. Morley says they were treated like 'heads of state' and enjoyed a special state dinner at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Mayor Giuliano is pictured in Zhenjiang with Zhan Gro Youn, or "Jerry" as he likes to be called after his favorite cartoon "Tom and Jerry." Jerry is the 13-year-old son of Charlie Zhang who has been the Zhenjiang Friendship coordinator with Tempe for over ten years along with John Hua who has been involved for some nine years.



## Tea in Tempe to meet Two from Timbuktu

On a recent Saturday afternoon at Hackett House, TSC members had tea with Toure Zalia Maiga and Toure Bintou Traore from Timbuktu. Maureen Buffington flew into Phoenix from California for the day just to translate for the women and renew old friendships from when she journeyed to Timbuktu. Both Zalia and Bintou expressed their joy and excitement about being in the United States for the first time, and during the tea they exchanged gifts with TSC Vice-President Harry Mitchell.

Over tea, the two recounted their struggles to promote women's rights at home where 85% of the women are uneducated and illiterate. They spoke of young girls leaving school for marriage and women spending all day grinding just to feed their families for one day. They are especially appreciative of TSC providing funds for an automatic grinder and for the drinking water wells.

They also brought handcrafts to sell. Colorful shirts, tablecloths and napkins, leather goods, and silver rings and bracelets were on display. Sue and Bob Lofgren hosted the Timbuktu guests during their Tempe stay.

## Is Carlow a Salad?

Did you know that there is such thing as a Carlow Town Salad? At Rula Bula Tempe Irish Pub and Restaurant on Mill Avenue one block east of Hackett House, you can order a Carlow Town Salad. It's grilled chicken on greens with tomatoes, capers and red onions.

# Sister Cities Update

Zhenjiang  
Timbuktu  
Carlow



The young student artist and her teacher at the Zhenjiang Experimental School presented Tempe Councilman Dennis Cahill a watercolor scroll.



Sue Lofgren, Timbuktu Coordinator, hosted a tea at Hackett House for Timbuktu visitors Toure Bintou Traore and Toure Zalia Maiga. Maureen Buffington translated for the women.



# Timbuktu Quenches Its Thirst

With Friendship From Tempe  
by Gail Fisher



Goats travel Timbuktu streets with pedestrians.

Water, education and medical needs have dominated Tempe's ten-year relationship with Timbuktu. While this exotic city conjures up images of arid desolation and a destination of no return, to Tempe it represents an intriguing challenge and a destination of friendly culture. Located in central Mali, West Africa, Timbuktu first appealed for a sister city in 1986 during a Sister City International (SCI) conference. Dick Neuheisel was SCI President (a position he held for fifteen years) and tried for two years to find Timbuktu a partner city.

**It's difficult to accomplish anything when you're thirsty.**

In 1988, Neuheisel visited Timbuktu to assess both the obstacles and opportunities. "It was very clear that Timbuktu needed a strong partner," he concluded. Neuheisel returned home and explained the enormous needs of Timbuktu to the Tempe Sister City Board of Directors. After much discussion, the board agreed to accept the challenges of this third-world city in the Tempe Sister City program.

## Official Connection

In 1991, Timbuktu and Tempe became official Sister Cities and Sue Lofgren began as the Timbuktu coordinator. Due to civil unrest, no exchanges were possible until 1993 when Harber Sabane, then the mayor of Timbuktu, visited Tempe. Sabane made one comment that left a lasting impression: "It's difficult to accomplish anything when you're thirsty."

Sabane's remark started a chain of events that led Tempe Sister City to sell bottled water with a special label "Water for You...and Timbuktu." Enough money was raised from sales during Oktoberfest and other events for two drinking water wells.

In 1996, Chet Andrews, a retired water engineer, and Maureen Buffington, a Tempe High School French teacher, visited Timbuktu as Tempe Sister City ambassadors. Andrews assessed Timbuktu's water and electric needs while Buffington visited schools and the medical clinic.

Andrews reported that the city hall had been without water and electricity for four years because they could not

afford to pay the utility bill. While agriculture is a major source of income in Timbuktu, droughts during the previous ten years had caused death, starvation and economic depression.

Most residents could barely afford to buy water for a penny a bucket from the city-operated wells, and wandering nomads outside the city walked many miles for water. Andrews said that increasing the availability of safe water for both the city and surrounding area was a top priority of both the mayor and regional director.

When Buffington explored

Timbuktu's educational needs, she discovered that fewer than twenty percent of school age children attended school. "There was one first grade teacher for 135 children," she observed. "They only receive \$1.50 per student for supplies -- chalk [for slates], paper, and drinking water." The high school library only consisted of several shelves of books.

## Buffington, Lofgren and Amin visit Timbuktu

A year later Buffington returned to Timbuktu with Lofgren and Dr. Omar Amin, director of the Institute of Parasitic Diseases in Phoenix. Dr. Amin traveled to Timbuktu to establish a parasitic disease clinic. The group brought school supplies as well as \$11,000 of medical supplies to the hospital and outpatient treatment center built by the French in 1990.



The Tempe delegation and Timbuktu officials who welcomed them during the February 2000 visit.

The trio observed the quiet life of Timbuktu where the only paved road runs from the airport to the town. White sand and dust fill the landscape. Donkeys and herds of goats and sheep travel the streets with pedestrians. There is little crime, no alcohol (Muslims do not drink) and people always give to beggars.



Dr. Amin ate with his hands along with Maureen Buffington and their Timbuktu host during a farewell feast.

Family life takes place behind compounds among the rose-colored mud walls within the city. The mud plaster must be reapplied every year after the rainy season. Baking takes place outside in beehive ovens in front of the houses. Sometimes shops are contained within the thick walled homes. Most people go home when businesses shut down from noon to three in the afternoon. A different sense of household privacy prevails where people move freely in and out of rooms at any time.

The Tuareg, a nomadic people who reside in the desert outside Timbuktu, feted the Tempe trio with a desert tea. The Tuareg hosts spread carpets on the sand and served green tea while the women danced in their colorful boubous--flowing caftans with pants underneath, worn by both men and women. A farewell feast featured a whole roasted lamb stuffed with a chicken that was stuffed with couscous and an egg. Hosts and guests ate with their hands.

In the summer of 1999, Dr. Charles Fau of the Regional Hospital of Timbuktu visited Tempe, to train with Dr. Amin. With the help of Lofgren, arrangements were made for Interplast, a California based medical network of volunteers, to travel to Timbuktu.

Interplast performed some 100 reconstructive surgical procedures on needy children in Timbuktu.

## Neuheisel, Goitia, Hatton and Peshall visit Timbuktu

Over a year ago another group from Tempe Sister Cities visited Timbuktu. Neuheisel, Ralph Goitia, Roger Hatton and Bob Peshall made the trek and brought with them basketballs, soccer balls, T-shirts, school supplies, books, medical supplies and their good natures.

Each took a turn riding a camel and said they were glad just to be able to hang on. They contributed money to plant a tree in the Garden of Peace started by the mayor of Bambico, and reported that funds are needed to purchase camels, sheep and goats. Goitia said he enjoyed the experience and Hatton found the people gracious and appreciative.



Bob Peshall, Dick Neuheisel, Ralph Goitia, Roger Hatton and a Timbuktu official surround one of the wells TSC provided for Timbuktu.

The group also dedicated four wells and personalized them by naming them after Tempe Mayor Neil Giuliano, State Senator Harry Mitchell, Sue Lofgren and Jane Neuheisel. The wells have been a tremendous benefit, especially for those living just outside Timbuktu. It was the first time many had access to water. This group also concluded that providing drinking water wells should be a top priority.

Timbuktu celebrated the departure of their Tempe guests with music, dancing and feasting on the roof of the mayor's house under a full moon.